

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

A Resource to Inform and Celebrate
Louisiana's Building-Level Leaders

May 26, 2022

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Principal Corner

Louisiana Association of Principals 2021-2022 Assistant Principal of the Year

Cassady Hickingbottom, Assistant Principal, DeRidder High School, Beauregard Parish



Mrs. Cassady Hickingbottom is the assistant principal at DeRidder High School in Beauregard Parish. She has been an assistant principal for 3 years. Cassady began her education career at Katy High School in Katy, Texas, in 2004. In 2007, she was hired in Calcasieu Parish where she served as a Family and Consumer Science Teacher and ProStart Instructor at LaGrange High School and Sulphur High School, respectively, before being hired in Beauregard Parish.

Mrs. Hickingbottom earned her Bachelor's of Science Degree in 2003 and her Masters of Education, Majoring in Leadership in 2016 at McNeese State University. She has served the profession in many capacities including the National Cognia Review Board, the NMSI Grant, SLT Team Leader and School Leadership Team to just mention a few. She is also very involved in the community through her church the Westlake Pentecostal Church and the Junior League of Lake Charles. Cassady received the Triad Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2018, and the "You Made A Difference Award," for Excellence in Educating Scholars in 2015.

The past few years have been especially challenging due to COVID-19 and the devastation that Hurricane Laura caused. Mrs. Hickingbottom has been actively involved in the mental, emotional, and

physical well-being of students. She has established a strong, positive relationship with the school's resource officers which gives her information and a perspective on students' lives that would not have otherwise been brought to the school's attention. This information allows her to deal positively with situations that could affect the school environment or student behavior before it becomes a major issue. Cassady has also created a Student Learning Center at DeRidder High School where special education students can go to receive their accommodations. This creates a positive environment that fosters learning for all students with disabilities. Her principal, Harry Hooker, states, "A worker of seemingly infinite energy, Cassady not only performs her duties to utmost satisfaction and efficiency, but she is also quick to aid others in helping them to accomplish their tasks when the occasion calls. . . .She is a valued member of our team."

The Louisiana Association of Principals along with the Louisiana Department of Education congratulates Mrs. Cassady Hickingbottom, the 2021-2022 Louisiana Assistant Principal of the Year.

Announcements

Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Teacher Survey

The Department, in conjunction with the Region 14 Comprehensive Center, an outside organization that is a partner with the LDOE in improving education in our state, is providing the opportunity for **teachers** to describe their experiences and perceptions as well as offer suggestions on issues related to teacher recruitment, recovery, and retention.

Teachers are asked to complete this short [survey](#) by **June 10**.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

CIS Teacher and Staff Evaluations

Please share with systems leaders, school leaders, human resource directors, and data directors.

The teacher evaluation upload window is open. Systems are encouraged to begin finalizing teacher and staff evaluations. The Compass Information System (CIS) will shut down for the 2021-2022 school year on September 1, 2022. Following this date, no teacher evaluation data for the 2021-2022 school year will be able to be amended or added. Please prepare to complete the following no later than August 26, 2022, in [CIS](#):

- Enter and rate both SLTs for teachers and staff.
- Enter professional practice scores (for 2021-2022 only, if the evaluated person scored "Effective: Proficient" or "Highly Effective" (2.5 and above), enter the single score twice).
- Finalize evaluations for VAM and non-VAM teachers; final evaluation scores will recalculate after VAM is complete.

It is also encouraged to enter professional practice scores for leaders and ensure that SLTs are set.

Resources for [evaluation uploads](#) are located in the [Compass Library](#).

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

School systems should be in the final stages of planning their summer learning programs using the planning checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#). Beginning this summer, all CIR/UIR-A schools are required to implement summer learning programs.

Similar to data collected from Summer 2021, systems should expect to share information about student outcomes. These indicators include:

Category	Examples
Curriculum-Embedded Assessments for Math*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of math lessons completed
Curriculum-Embedded Assessments for ELA*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of ELA lessons completed• Unit Assessments in ELA Guidebooks
Literacy Screeners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Screeners approved by the Department (Acadience Reading, DIBELS 8th, STEEP, STEP).
Early Childhood Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IS Gold®
Other Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing samples• Social-Emotional Program Data

* Required

Please contact keisha.thomas2@la.gov with questions.

Mentor Waiver

At the April BESE meeting, the Board approved a waiver of the Mentor policy for the 2022-2023 school year. This request is identical to what was approved for the 2021-2022 school year. Mentor teacher waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis through the application process established by the LDOE and at no fee to the applicant, school system, or teacher preparation provider. The waiver will be issued by the LDOE for educators highly recommended by the mentor's principal and who possess one or more of the following qualifications:

- Two years of Highly Effective Compass ratings;
- National Board Certification;
- Statewide or national distinction for excellence in teaching;
- Experience as a TAP mentor, master teacher, executive master teacher, or certified TAP evaluator;
- Content leader experience, as evidenced by participation in Content Leader training or redelivery of professional development; or
- Master's or doctorate in education and exemplary experience hosting student teachers.

The Department will share application instructions with school systems and preparation providers by early summer. It is anticipated that the application process will be identical to [the process](#) used in 2021-2022.

Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Real-Time Early Access to Literacy (REAL)

[Real-Time Early Access to Literacy \(REAL\)](#) provides early literacy support to students in pre-K through grade 3 with allocated funding towards technology and tutoring services. School systems receive funding to establish literacy tutoring microgrant accounts for eligible students. Tutoring for REAL participants is provided by LDOE-approved [Tutoring Service Providers](#).

Pending BESE approval, school systems with CIR/UIR-A schools will receive an additional allocation to provide tutoring services for eligible students this summer.

Please contact holly.manson@la.gov with any questions.

Events

Teacher Leader Summit 2022: Making a Comeback!

In just a few days, Louisiana's educators will come together at Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans. Attendees will hear from [keynote speakers](#) Stephen M.R. Covey and Juliana Urtubey.

Registered attendees should use [these recommendations](#) to prepare for arrival prior to the event. The City of New Orleans has lifted the mask, vaccine and test requirements as of March 21. Under the [updated guidelines](#), Teacher Leader Summit will not require these.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Resources

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) The Writing Revolution Webinar Registration

The Department has partnered with [The Writing Revolution](#) on the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) revisions to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks. The Writing Revolution's sequential progression of strategies is integrated throughout the content in the updated ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units. [The Writing Revolution](#) is hosting additional workshops to support school systems in implementing these writing strategies and integrated activities.

Interested teachers and instructional leaders should [register](#) for one of the following webinars:

- Monday, June 6: Asynchronous Training Start
- Monday, June 27 at 8:00 a.m. (full day session)
- Thursday, August 4 at 8:00 a.m. (full day session)
- Monday, August 8 at 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday, August 9 9:00 a.m. (two half day sessions)

Please contact guidebooks@thewritingrevolution.org with any questions.

Louisiana’s ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Overview

[Louisiana’s ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\) Overview document](#) has been updated to include the most up-to-date information about revisions to the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units. The overview document contains the following important information to support school systems in implementing these updated units:

- an overview of updates to ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022);
- curriculum access and text purchasing information;
- unit text and topic overviews with release schedule; and
- [master text lists](#)

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Unit Availability

All ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) development units are now exclusively available on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). However, Imagine Learning/LearnZillion will continue to provide access to ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2018) and a timeline for the implementation of ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) on their platform has not yet been released.

For additional information on the future plans of ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) on the Imagine Learning/LearnZillion site, including updates regarding the timeline and the existing ELA Guidebook units on the site, please reach out to Imagine Learning/LearnZillion directly.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Accelerate ELA Feedback

Accelerate, Louisiana’s pre-K-12 tutoring strategy, is designed for school systems to implement equal access tutoring at scale to achieve significant results for all students. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, the Department has released ELA Accelerate materials for grades K-10. As we begin to plan for future developments, we are requesting feedback on the Accelerate ELA resources.

Please complete the brief [survey](#) by **June 6** to share your feedback.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY RESOURCES

Analyzing End-of-Year Data Guidance

The Department’s Literacy Division has released a set of templates to support teachers and leaders with analyzing end-of-year literacy screener data and planning for student success. The following templates can be accessed in the [Literacy Library](#) under the Literacy Goals pillar.

- [Universal Screener EOY Analysis Template - Teachers](#)
- [Universal Screener EOY Analysis Template - Site-Level Leaders](#)
- [Universal Screener EOY Analysis Template - District Leaders](#)
- [Universal Screener Analysis Template - Interventionists](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit Literacy Session Line-Up

The Literacy Division will be presenting several sessions at Teacher Leader Summit to support teachers and leaders with literacy implementation focused around the literacy pillars. The Literacy sessions will cover the following topics:

- Middle and High School Literacy
- Literacy Plans
- Foundational Skills in Grades 3 and up
- Interventions for All Grade Levels
- Literacy Coaching
- Literacy Leadership
- Student Literacy Plans
- Family Engagement around Literacy

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

New High Quality (Tier 1) Math Materials Identified for High School

To support school systems as they transition from archived high school math materials to currently available high quality high school materials, the Department has partnered with Great Minds to offer two informational sessions on the newly available Tier 1 curriculum, Eureka Math Squared for Algebra I. Register by clicking on the links below.

An Overview of Tier I Eureka Math² Algebra I:

- [Thursday, June 8 at 9:00 a.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, July 20 at 9:00 a.m.](#)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Math Planning Guide Updates

To assist teachers in preparing for upcoming lessons within high quality math materials during teacher collaboration, the Department has updated the [Math Planning Guide](#).

This resource includes guiding questions and protocols for

- foundational study of the standards;
- planning supports to accelerate learning;
- collaborative lesson planning; and
- unpacking student understanding.

A session at Teacher Leader Summit will focus on supporting teachers in the use of this guide, with a focus on proactive planning for accelerating learning.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Using ASSISTments to Accelerate Learning with Illustrative and Eureka Math Summer Training

[ASSISTments](#) is a free math practice and assessment platform that supports the Department's [Accelerate Math Strategy](#) and streamlines the Accelerate cycle. Teachers can assign all of the [Accelerate Math Diagnostics and Tutoring Exit tickets](#) online and get immediate data to use when planning just-in-time supports and monitoring student progress. ASSISTments is holding a free training June 21 at 2:30 p.m. to provide Louisiana educators with information about how this resource can be used to support learning acceleration. Participants will receive a full demonstration of the features of ASSISTments, designed uniquely for Louisiana schools. [Registration](#) is now open.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Ready Louisiana Mathematics Resources for Summer Learning Programs Now Available

Materials used in summer learning should be of the same quality as those used during the school year. The Department has released [Guidance for Accelerating Summer Math Learning](#) to support systems in providing strong summer programs that accelerate students' readiness to engage in grade level mathematics in the upcoming year. This guidance has recently been updated to include an opportunity for free access to [Ready Louisiana](#) materials for use in summer learning acceleration programs. The [Ready Louisiana Mathematics Summer Learning Guidance](#) includes a 6 week map of Mini Units designed to be used with rising grade 1-9 students. Each week focuses on one general topic or standards cluster. Details on professional learning can be found on the [Ready Louisiana Summer Acceleration site](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Featured Summit Field Trip and Highlighted Sessions for Science and STEM

Science and STEM sessions at the [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will focus on leveraging the unique assets of students and communities as part of a [high quality science](#) learning environment. [Highlighted sessions](#) will focus on supporting student engagement in authentic, place-based learning and will feature

- a panel discussion with experts in the field for place-based learning, local Louisiana science leaders, and classroom teachers;
- an interactive nature walk where engaging students in meaningful outdoor learning will come alive; and
- interactive, workshop-style sessions focused on exploring teaching and learning frameworks for science and outdoor learning.

Summit attendees can search for these [highlighted session](#) titles and pre-register for all sessions within the Whova app.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

2022 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies Implementation Information

The [2022 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) will be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. A [brief guide for implementation](#) is posted to the [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#) and [Grades 9-12 Social Studies Teacher Library](#). The Department will provide resources and educator professional development to support the implementation of the new social studies standards starting at this year's Teacher Leader Summit and throughout the 2022-2023 school year. The Department will begin hosting [webinars](#) this summer to support district leaders, school leaders, and teachers as they prepare to transition to the 2022 K-12 Louisiana Students Standards for Social Studies. The first webinar will be held on June 9.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

EdTech

Educational Technology Plan Update

The Department has approved a revised Educational Technology plan that will be the framework for Educational Technology supports for Louisiana school systems in the future. The revised plan will be launched at Teacher Leader Summit. The plan will be posted along with ongoing school support on the new [Digital Learning website](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Educator Recognition

2022 Louisiana Exemplary Educators

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Therefore, the [Louisiana Exemplary Educator Recognition Program](#) serves to acknowledge, honor, and spotlight exceptional teachers, teacher specialists, and school leaders who exemplify Louisiana's education profession.

This year, school systems from all across the state submitted recommendations for the 2022 Louisiana Exemplary Educator Recognition Program through a confidential process where the candidates were unaware of their recommendation. From this impressive group, the Department is proud to announce the [2022 Louisiana Exemplary Educators](#).

In acknowledgement of being named an Exemplary Educator, these individuals will receive a certificate of recognition and may be invited to participate on Louisiana Department of Education advisory boards and task forces, as well as be considered for other recognition programs.

To learn more about the [Louisiana Exemplary Educator Recognition Program](#), visit the [Award Programs](#) page.

Educator Opportunities

2022-2023 Teacher Leader Advisors

The Department is now accepting applications for 2022-2023 Teacher Leader Advisors. TLAs work closely with Department staff throughout the year to make sure school systems across the state have access to high-quality instructional materials. All interested Louisiana educators should complete the application by 5 p.m., June 11.

For an overview of the work planned for 2022-2023 and a link to the application, see the [TLA flyer](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Special Education Advisory Panel Application Open

The [Special Education Advisory Panel](#) (SEAP) [application](#) is now open. SEAP advises and assists the Louisiana Department of Education with the provision of free and appropriate public education for individuals with disabilities. It exists by authority of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to provide guidance on special education programs and services. Interested applicants can find the vacant roles and more information in the [vacancy announcement and application](#), and interested applicants should apply during the month of May 2022.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Assessment Literacy Initiative

The LDOE, in partnership with the Center for Assessment, launched the Assessment Literacy Initiative in the 2021–2022 school year. The goal of the Initiative is to cultivate assessment literacy among Louisiana educators in order to improve student learning.

The LDOE is expanding the Initiative for the 2022–2023 school year and will partner with up to 20 teams of educators from across the state. Each team will include one school system leader, one school leader, and two teachers (one ELA and one social studies). Teams will participate in a series of professional learning modules throughout the year that will consist of six 3-hour virtual sessions, with independent practice activities between sessions. To apply, school leaders should complete the [interest survey](#) by **June 30, 2022**.

To learn more, attend the session Assessment Literacy: Transforming Assessment Conversations at the Teacher Leader Summit, where participants from the first year of the Louisiana's Assessment Literacy Initiative will share what they learned and how it affected assessment practices.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Principal Newsletter Signup

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy along with [this link](#) and they will receive our next monthly newsletter.

Principal Appreciation

Take a minute to send a shout-out of appreciation to a colleague who is a building-level leader using this [survey link](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

Shout Outs:

Aiman Bayoumi at Rougon Elementary and Junior High in Pointe Coupee Parish: "Mr. Bayoumi does an excellent job at building school culture. He is constantly recognizing teachers and students for their hard work and accomplishments, and his morning announcements are outstanding! I look forward to visiting his school in the mornings to catch his shout outs, the weather, and the joke of the day. He also begins each day with a morning huddle for his teachers. This positive start gets them ready for the opportunities that each day brings. His leadership is what brings teachers and students to school each day!" *Submitted by Rebecca Stephenson*

D'Anne Bennett at Swartz Upper Elementary School in Ouachita Parish: "D'Anne is always available to support teachers and students. She values the staff and is compassionate to others. D'Anne is an assistant principal who has gone above and beyond. She often takes on extra work and represents our school so well. I am proud to be her coworker as well as friend!" *Submitted by Laura Tugwell*

Steven Ehrhard at Jonesboro-Hodge High School in Jackson Parish: "Mr. Ehrhard goes above and beyond to build collaborative relationships with staff, students, and their families." *Submitted anonymously*

Dawn Lobell at Hynes-Lakeview Charter School in Orleans Parish: "Mrs. Lobell has completed her first full year as Principal. She values building relationships with stakeholders to advance student performance. She stepped into this role in the middle of a pandemic, and she rose to every challenge! Mrs. Lobell's morning announcements are the best. She builds support for school initiatives and works very long hours to accomplish her goals." *Submitted by Dr. Michelle B. Douglas*

DeeDee McCullough at Northshore Charter School in the City of Bogalusa: "Mrs. McCullough devotes a great amount of time and energy to Northshore Charter School's students and staff. She not only attends to the students' academic needs, but to the needs of the whole child." *Submitted by Kristie Pittman*

Monica Morrow at Homer Elementary School in Claiborne Parish: "Mrs. Morrow shows care and commitment to the students and staff of HES daily. She strives to be equitable to all in every situation and has high expectations for success for everyone. Her positivity and trustworthiness radiates through our building making students and staff proud to be a part of the HES community!." *Submitted by Alyson Perry*

Brittany Romero at Evangeline Elementary School in Acadia Parish: "Brittany is open to new ideas and creative ways to increase effectiveness of all processes and initiatives on our campus. Her tireless efforts in supporting our teachers and students throughout this school year are truly appreciated. Thank you for being a part of our leadership team." *Submitted by Kasey Guchereau*

Terri Williams at Hynes-Parkview Charter School in Orleans Parish: "Ms. Williams stepped into the role of Principal at Hynes-Parkview which was a full charter school transformation. Ms. Williams and her team fully staffed the school and created this third school in the Hynes network. Congratulations on her first year at Hynes! " *Submitted by Dr. Michelle B. Douglas*

Erikka Wishom at Port Allen Elementary School in West Baton Rouge Parish: "Ms. Wishom has completely transformed the culture of the school in her first year. She is a humble, servant leader who has focused on Parent/Community engagement." *Submitted by Julie Mayeux*

Dates to Consider for Building-Level Leaders

Important Dates	
Special Education Advisory Panel Application	May 31
Accelerate ELA Feedback Submission	June 6
Overview of Tier I Eureka Math² Algebra I	June 8 at 9:00 a.m.
Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Teacher Survey	June 10
Teacher Leader Advisor Applications	June 11
Math ASSISTments	June 21 at 2:30 p.m.
Louisiana Assessment Literacy Initiative Interest Survey	June 30